

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

STACKS

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CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 1967

HEADLAND - FARMLAND

Where is our heart, and where is our treasure?
Where is the worth, by which we land measure?
For if we are blind to this coastal splendor
Then to what will our tithe be rendered?

Rocky coast, broad open fields -- these could be ours
Preserved from city's growth, deep sanctuaries
To re-create ourselves; unfold new powers
Through contemplation of affinities.

For when tomorrow's children yearn for lands
To love for truth -- need meadows and need woods --
Can we say we did not care to save the sands
Or marsh for them, cared not, nor found them good?
And if roads, pavement, buildings cover all our shore
When they ask for beauty, must we say, there is no more?

Priscilla Pratt

BLUFF POINT

This poem by one of our Chapter members is dedicated to the concept of a Bluff Point - Haley Farm Coastal Preserve in Groton. The poignant lines above are made all the more timely by the recent appropriation passed in the State Legislature of \$1.3 million for a connector road to Bluff Point. The lovely undeveloped peninsula that is Bluff Point lying between the Poquonnock River and Mumford Cove in Groton is only partially owned by the State, and the rolling landscape of the Haley Farm which slopes down to Mumford Cove just east of Bluff Point can not be expected to withstand the pressures of growing populations and remain undeveloped much longer.

The State Park and Forest Commission says it has funds for development of Bluff Point. Would not these funds be far better invested now in purchasing the remainder of this area to be a lovely Coastal Preserve? Look at the beauty of the West Coast of the United States where such preserved areas exist as compared with our highly developed and commercialized East Coast. This is our last major peninsula of natural beauty on the Connecticut coastline. Once a \$1.3 million highway is built to it - Bluff Point, too, will be developed.

If we, the citizens of Connecticut, want to have a stunning piece of shoreline of which we can be proud - what better site is there than this lovely headland half-way between New York and Boston? Must we be mute witnesses to such a loss of our natural heritage?

GLASTONBURY SUB-CHAPTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At an Annual Meeting of the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter held on May 18th as a picnic supper and meeting the following officers were elected:

Mr. Dana B. Waring, Chairman
Mr. Ross C. Powell, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Mr. John M. Finney, Treasurer
Mr. Raymond G. Clark, Secretary

To the Executive Committee were also elected:

Mrs. Norman B. Newton
Mr. Richard J. Mihm
Mr. Richard S. Buck

The new Project Chairman of the Cotton Hollow Preserve is Mr. Powell of Hickory Dr., South Glastonbury. He may be reached at 633-7367.

The Sub-Chapter has some interesting projects developing. We wish the newly elected officers and the Sub-Chapter the best of conservation luck in the coming year.

FROM CONNECTICUT'S LEGISLATIVE HALLS

The 1967 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly closed on June 7th, but it will be several weeks before we can be sure what measures have passed. Senator George Gunther, a former President of the Connecticut Association of Conservation Commissions and an outstanding state conservationist, has indicated that many excellent legislative measures will not pass this time.

There are some conservation measures, however, which are likely to pass that should be helpful. One is a bill to give the Connecticut Board of Fisheries & Game the power to condemn wetland areas which are needed for their program.

Another is additional funding for state assistance in local open space acquisitions. The amount available could change, but the latest information indicates that four million dollars will be appropriated. If past experience is a guide, much of this amount will not go for conservation areas of the type that we work for in The Nature Conservancy. Rather, much of the amount available will go for acquisition of land to be used for intensive recreational uses, such as golf courses and swimming pools. Most of us would approve more of our state tax money used for assistance in the acquisition of additional recreation land rather than for more highways, but the point is that of the four million dollars only a fraction will be for conservation projects, such as the Mianus River Valley area or the preservation of wetlands.

It was believed by nearly all that the bill to provide for the creation of a State System of Nature Preserves would pass. This bill passed the Senate and on June 6th was ready to pass the House. However, the House killed the bill by recommitting it to the State Development Committee. Exactly why and who is responsible for this unexpected last minute change is uncertain. It is highly likely that the responsibility for this unexpected change lies within Governor Dempsey's administration since both Senate

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WALCOTT PRESERVE FUND DRIVE

Responses have been coming in to the recent appeal letter for funds to complete the purchase of a large and vital tract at the Walcott Preserve.

There remains, however, \$4,300 still an outstanding debt which must be repaid to our National Matching & Loan Fund. Payment of this debt is a gift with double benefits: not only do we help in preserving what many of us know as "Beckley Bog", but also we are restoring this money to active use for some other worthy project.

If you have already helped, the Connecticut Chapter extends its thanks to you; if you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, will you please give ~~thought~~ to the double return this conservation investment will bring. Please send pledges or make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy and send them to Mrs. John M. Hamilton, Project Chairman, 9 Binney Lane, Old Greenwich, Connecticut 06870.

CONSERVATION AWARD

Our Chapter Chairman, Mrs. Agnew W. Talcott, has just recently received the Conservation Award of the Year for Zone II of the Garden Clubs of America. This regional award was announced at their meeting at the White Memorial Foundation in May. Congratulations, Shirley.

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATION . . . (con't.) and House Legislative Committees had reported favorably on the bill. With the legislative branch all favorable, one must look to the executive branch for motivation. Some administrator must have influenced the legislators to cause this reversal.

Yes, there is much work to be done in the field of conservation legislation.

Atty. Richard M. Bowers

ESTUARINE AREAS PROTECTION

Public hearings were held in March in Washington, D.C. for the Estuarine Areas Bill, H.R. 25, which would afford protection to estuaries, bays, tidal marshes and other such waterways. At the 3-day session before the Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, disagreement arose between the Department of the Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Department of the Interior strongly supports Sec. 12 which prohibits anyone from dredging, filling or excavating any estuary of the United States or in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways without a permit from the Secretary of the Interior. It also would give the Secretary authority to regulate the dumping of dredgings, garbage, and other materials, except oil, already covered under law.

The Army wanted the legislation limited to study and did not want permits also required by the Dept. of the Interior.

Asst. Secretary of the Interior Stanley A. Cain stated "we do not question the importance of the responsibility of the Corps to protect navigation." ... "Our concern, however, is that even when navigation is not adversely affected by dredging and filling, many cases exist where a permit should not be issued because important adverse effects on fish and wildlife habitat would result, or it should be issued only with the conditions recommended by the Fish & Wildlife Service. It is the proper function of the Dept. of the Interior to control pollution and prevent a reduction in the quality of our waterways and the natural values that reside in estuaries insofar as national values of fish, wildlife, recreation and natural beauty are involved. The Corps is not, and should not be expected to be, responsible for these important functions of the Federal Government."

Dr. Cain also said that Sec. 12 would not give the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service authority over the fish and wildlife resources of estuaries. "All of the authority of the States for the management of fish and wildlife resources will continue

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PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

The Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College has published a new bulletin, "A Guided Tour of the Connecticut Arboretum" which is a guide done by a unique method involving station maps for the Arboretum. Director Dr. William A. Niering hopes that this bulletin may serve as a model for communities, with town parks or school natural areas, interested in instilling a greater appreciation and insight into residents concerning the natural world around them.

The Guide may be obtained from the Office of the Director, Connecticut Arboretum, New London, Connecticut, for 50 cents.

The Connecticut Chapter, as was announced in the April 1966 Newsletter, has purchased a large quantity of the Connecticut Arboretum Bulletin "Marshlands are Not Wastelands". These the Chapter has made available the first one free upon request, or bulk rates at ten for a \$1.00 (to help with handling costs). Just drop a note to your Newsletter Editor with your request.

Another book which all of our members will enjoy reading is "The Life of The Marsh" by Dr. William A. Niering which is part of Our Living World of Nature Series done by McGraw-Hill. This worthwhile book is filled with beautiful color photos and much worthwhile material on our wetlands.

ESTUARINES ... (con't.)

to rest with the States if the bill is enacted."

The purpose of Sec. 12 is to assure that some single agency will be responsible for passing on the biological impact of dredging, filling or other alteration of estuaries. Permits for such activities currently are required from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, but that agency's inspection is limited only to the protection of navigation. There is no centralized responsibility for examining projects from the point of protecting the natural environment of estuaries and coastal marshes, the most productive of all of North America's habitats for fish and wildlife. This authority is needed.

For all of concerned with the status of our estuarine areas, this is a most important bill to keep track of.

NATURE PRESERVES AND POPULATION

What relationship, if any, is there between the Nature Preserves we in The Nature Conservancy strive to acquire and protect and the population explosion occurring all over the world, in America and more particularly, in Connecticut?

To accomplish anything we must concentrate our attentions and efforts on a particular project, such as the acquiring of a 100-acre Nature Preserve. Quite often The Nature Conservancy has assisted in successfully having legal title to real estate placed in a conservation entity and then we all get the feeling that the job has been completed. Not so, any more than when a church building has been completed have the church members finished their job.

Time brings changes, and since our hope in dedicating Nature Preserves is that such areas will be available as living museums on a permanent or perpetual basis, our eyes must have "great distance" in them, to use Secretary Udall's phrase. In other words, we should try to think about the preservation problems of our nature preserves not only in 1967 and for the next ten years, but also the likely problems of 1997, or even 2997.

As we put distance into our frame of reference (I like to think of time perspective as the oft-referred to fourth dimension) then the pressures created by the increases in human population numbers becomes obvious.

When we think about the oft-repeated predictions that Connecticut by the year 2000 is to double its human population to about six million homo sapiens, is there any doubt that Nature Preserves will feel the pressures of such growth? In physics we were taught the axiom that each action has an equal and opposite reaction. What will be the reaction upon Nature Preserves of the six million Connecticut residents in 2000 or the 12 million by the year 2035?

Once we open this Pandora's box of looking into the future should we slam the cover shut and ignore what we see, or is

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SUMMER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The well-known Conservation Workshop will again be held this summer by the Willimantic State College in cooperation with the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and the White Memorial Foundation. This will be a three-week course directed by Dr. William J. Jahoda on June 26th - July 14th at the White Memorial Foundation facilities on Bantam Lake in Litchfield. Enclosed is a brochure for this popular conservation workshop.

NATURE PRESERVES ... (con't.)

there an area of activity we in The Nature Conservancy should undertake? I believe that optimum population levels at some point must, can and will be established by local, state, national and international governments. All of us active in The Nature Conservancy have vital roles, I believe, in advising our selectmen, counselors, state representatives, congressmen, etc. as to what optimum population level we believe should be set.

Atty. Richard M. Bowers

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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The Editor invites any comments concerning, or articles for, the Chapter Newsletter.
